

Proposal

Evaluate legislation to allow the use of breakthrough therapeutic treatments for specific uses and/or populations, such as psilocybin for seniors with treatment-resistant depression and MDMA for veterans suffering from PTSD.

Summary

Allowing access to breakthrough therapeutic treatments would help Wyoming's veterans and seniors, who bear a disproportionate burden of the state's mental health crisis.

There is growing evidence (cited below) that psilocybin and MDMA may be the best treatments available for many people suffering from disorders as diverse as TRD (treatment resistant depression) and MDD (major depressive disorder), as well as PTSD and substance addiction (as a cessation treatment for alcohol, opioids, nicotine, and methamphetamine).

References

"Efficacy and safety of psilocybin-assisted treatment for major depressive disorder: Prospective 12-month follow-up," Gukasyan, Davis and Griffiths. Johns Hopkins University - February, 2022.

- Two doses of psilocybin, administered by psychotherapists to patients with severe depression, were found to have long-term effectiveness. After 12 months, 75% of participants continued to show an improvement in their condition, with 58% in remission. No adverse effects reported.

"MDMA-assisted therapy for severe PTSD: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 study," Mitchell, Bogenschutz, Lilienstein, Harrison, et al. New York University School of Medicine; UCSF Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry - October, 2021

- Administration of MDMA-assisted therapy showed significant improvements to PTSD symptoms after 18 weeks - 67% of participants no longer met the diagnostic criteria for PTSD; 32% met the criteria for remission. No adverse effects reported.

"MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy for Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: A Systematic Review With Meta-Analysis," Smith, Sicignano, Hernandez, White. The American College of Clinical Pharmacology; University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy - April, 2022

- Administration of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy was shown to reduce PTSD scores more than psychotherapy alone, enhancing positive outcomes and demonstrating clinically significant reductions in PTSD scores (including score reductions sufficient to no longer meet the definition of PTSD). Adverse effects reported were bruxism, headache and nausea.

"The Effects of MDMA on Prefrontal and Amygdala Activation in PTSD," Kelmendi Yale University - December 2022 (ongoing)

- Investigating the uses of MDMA in treating PTSD. Initial results show positive correlations between MDMA therapies and significant reductions or remission in PTSD symptoms.

"Analysis of Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy in Medicine: A Narrative Review," Ziff, Stern, Lewis, Majeed, Gorantla; National Library of Medicine; St. George's University School of Medicine - February, 2023

- A review of research and scientific literature related to the use of psilocybin and MDMA shows a broad range of conditions being successfully treated with the administration of psilocybin and PTSD, including depression, PTSD and addiction.